

Exeter March 22nd 1771.

Dearest Abby?

I arriv'd at Exeter this Monday after I
left Mistick, my Horse held out much bet-
ter than I expected. But as to myself I
ever feel dejected when I am going from
you. I feel as if I had left my better
half behind me, a certain inexpressible
something hangs upon my mind, that I
cant feel happy when absent from
my dearest Abby. Heaven has certainly
destin'd us for each ^{other}, else why should we
be permitted to carry our mutual Af-
fection to so a great a length. But
cruel Fate, and a more cruel War has
thrown an Obstacle in your way, but
hope you will surmount it. I cant
conceive how, or why, it should have
any weight with you. Love is a
noble disinterested Passion, It overlooks
small obstacles, & the purer the passion the
greater difficulties it will surmount.
pray consider the almost infinite impor-
tance it is to me to call you my own
before I march to Ticonderoga, how happy
it will make me, and what vast Obligations
it will lay me under, to contribute
as far as possible to make you happy in
the marriage State. I shall not march
I believe under a Month from this time,
consider me my lovely Girl, and enter into

a noble Resolution to give your hand
to the man, who loves you almost to Ador-
-ation, before he takes the field to oppose
our tyrannical foes. consider how many young
Ladies have immortalized their Characters
by encouraging their Lovers to defend their
Country. I should still have an Opportunity
to celebrate our Nuptials, and spending a
week or ten Days in your dear Company
before my departure, if you could possibly
consent. For Heaven's sake, by all the
indearing ties of tender affection, I conjure
you to write to me by Capt. Lisermore. If
you can consent to my proposal, I will
fly to you upon the wings of Love. However
write to me, if you have only time to
inclose your name in Papers. The more I
am acquainted with you, the more my
passion increases. the more tender and delir-
-ate my Love, I shall endeavor if possible
to spend a few Days more with you before
I leave this part of the Country at all
Events. And ~~enjoy~~ snatch a few moments
of Bliss and happiness before I take the
field.

Yr sincere and most
affectionate Friend
Alexd Scammell.

To
Miss Abigail Bishop
ad
Mistick